

From glowbugs@theporch.com Wed May 1 22:28:18 1996  
Return-Path: glowbugs@theporch.com  
Received: from uro (localhost.theporch.com [127.0.0.1]) by uro.theporch.com  
(8.7.5/AUX-3.1.1) with SMTP id WAA14417; Wed, 1 May 1996 22:25:21 -0500 (CDT)  
Date: Wed, 1 May 1996 22:25:21 -0500 (CDT)  
Message-Id: <199605020325.WAA14417@uro.theporch.com>  
Errors-To: ws4s@midtenn.net  
Reply-To: glowbugs@theporch.com  
Originator: glowbugs@theporch.com  
Sender: glowbugs@theporch.com  
Precedence: bulk  
From: glowbugs@theporch.com  
To: Multiple recipients of list <glowbugs@theporch.com>  
Subject: GLOWBUGS digest 175  
X-Listprocessor-Version: 6.0c -- ListProcessor by Anastasios Kotsikonas  
X-Comment: Please send list server requests to listproc@theporch.com  
Status: 0

#### GLOWBUGS Digest 175

Topics covered in this issue include:

- 1) Help with gg32figx ps files  
by jkh@lexis-nexis.com (John Heck)
- 2) 6AG7 Linear Amp  
by "James P. Rybak" <jrybak@mesa5.Mesa.Colorado.EDU>
- 3) Re: whoa, Nellie, on CW! [adjusting a bug]  
by Andy Wallace <wallace@mc.com>
- 4) Double bug?  
by Jeff Duntemann <jeffd@coriolis.com>

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Date: Wed, 1 May 96 11:23:51 EDT  
From: jkh@lexis-nexis.com (John Heck)  
To: glowbugs@theporch.com  
Subject: Help with gg32figx ps files  
Message-ID: <9605011523.AA02057@beans.lexis-nexis.com>

I have downloaded the gg32fig1 - 4 postscript files from the archive site. I cannot print figures 1,2 and 4, though, because my printer whines about them being too large. These are for the George Grammer 1932 Hartley, which I am considering building. If any one has these figures, and could copy them for me, I would send them a SASE and copy money. Thank you.

John Heck  
Dayton, Ohio  
jkh@lexis-nexis.com

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Date: Wed, 1 May 1996 10:25:29 -0600 (MDT)  
From: "James P. Rybak" <jrybak@mesa5.Mesa.Colorado.EDU>  
To: Glowbugs <glowbugs@theporch.com>  
Subject: 6AG7 Linear Amp  
Message-ID: <Pine.SV4.3.91.960501102206.3706A@mesa5.mesa.colorado.edu>

A couple of weeks ago, someone posted a message on this list or on the boatanchors list (I can't remember which) about a QST article long ago where someone built a linear amp which used a zillion 6AG7 tubes. If the issue of QST in which this article appeared was mentioned, I didn't notice it. I'd appreciate it very much if someone could tell me what issue of QST contained the article.

Thanks.

Jim Rybak W0KSD

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Date: Wed, 1 May 96 16:47:29 EDT  
From: Andy Wallace <wallace@mc.com>  
To: ac6gr@tribeca.ios.com  
Cc: glowbugs@theporch.com  
Subject: Re: whoa, Nellie, on CW! [adjusting a bug]  
Message-ID: <9605012047.AA02583@taku>

----- Begin Included Message -----

Subject: Re: whoa, Nellie, on CW!  
Content-Length: 542

I wonder if you can tell me more about those speed weights on your bug. I enjoy my vibroplex (which I bought new) and despite several hours of playing with the settings, always have trouble slowing down. (and still sounding sharp). Dits are sometimes a bitch to get right!

----- End Included Message -----

Hi, Jay!

I am sending this to the list also as others may find it useful, and no doubt the CW maestros like NA4G will chirp er, chime in. In fact, when I was asking questions after I bought my Vibroplex Original Deluxe (the chrome one is only \$10 more than the painted one), Bob sent me a good treatise on bug tuning.

I am typing this from memory, but some of it came from the info sheet Mitch Mitchell sends out with all his new bugs from the new Vibroplex shop in Mobile.

Start by loosening all the thumbscrews. (Don't loosen the spring ones all the way, just "enough" to make the arm swing free.) Then adjust the right-hand positioning screw so the end of the arm JUST starts to touch the damper (the roller or arm in the back that stops the arm from vibrating when you let go of the paddle). Tighten that lockwheel. The arm should be on the centerline of the base, at this point...

Next, I usually adjust the dash spacing with the left front screw. I like a short dash spacing. Tighten the wheel and adjust the front dash spring to the right to your liking.

I adjust the dot contacts last as they are touchy. Use the sidetone of your rig or an oscillator, of course!

At first I followed the author's suggestion in the book KEYS, KEYS, KEYS. He likes a wide (1/8" I think) paddle travel. This works but I found it was making a lot more work for my wrist than necessary.

Put the speed weights where you think you want them -- if you want slow, push them out to the end until the end one almost reaches the damper -- but make sure there's a space there. Tighten their screws.

I then adjust the dot travel screw (left side, behind the pivot, opposite the first travel screw you adjusted) for what I think is a good setting. I think my travel on the paddle end is about 1/16" or less.

Now the hard part: adjusting the dot contact for a good sound. First, be sure the contacts are mating squarely and adjust their little brackets if they aren't.

The right position for the dot contact is (according to my

ears) midway between bad and bad. :-) What I mean is, if the contacts are too close, the dots will have too short a space between them and you probably can't get eight in a row out of the bug before it's a flatliner like in the movies. Too wide a spacing and the dots are too short and "chopped." With my oscillator, they actually sound a little "sparky" if the contacts are too far away.

I've found the sweet spot is just midway of those two extremes. Beware that when you tighten the contact lockwheel, the contact will be backed out slightly when the wheel is tight. So I have to loosen the wheel, close the contact a little more, then retighten the lockwheel.

Where to put the dot spring is a matter of taste. I like mine fairly tight. Of course, when you adjust that, or the weight positioning, you have to readjust the dot contacts as well!

Then that should do it! I am sure you will get some references to QST or CQ articles, but I haven't seen them...I think there's even a way to do it with a VOM and adjust for a certain needle travel. But it all comes down to what your ear likes.

You can have whatever swing you like, but it will sound better if the bug isn't making choppy dits. I used to love my call (KA1GTT) because it was a nice one to do with a straight key... Then I started practicing with a bug and gosh...so many DAHs to get right. (I find it hard to get multiple dahs like J or zero to sound even.) Practice, practice! As I said I like the J-36 because it is a little limp and sends at my speed. <grin>

Speaking of which, I have TWO of the LARGE weights on the Vibroplex and it still sends at about 20wpm. If that is your situation you can do what that book author did and lump an PL-259 antenna connector on the end of the bug, or hang a clothespin off the setscrew!

That seems to be the problem -- adding another weight doesn't slow it down enough. What it needs is a larger DIAMETER, heavier weight. (This is probably obvious to someone who knows/remembers physics.) We are working with something designed at the turn of the century by Mr. (dang, forgot!) and for all the quirks of a mechanical bug, I still like it.

Please excuse the long ramble but I have been pretty quiet

on Boatanchors lately! I hope Jack will allow this topic as he has in the past. I think bugs (keys in general) are apropos to old gear. Personally I like CW but will not look down on anyone who doesn't like it, and the code debate is off-topic. But as I've said before -- I feel using CW and its paraphernalia makes me feel I am still of the same breed as the real radio pioneers who used balloon shaped tubes and spark gaps.

I hope this helps.

73, all!

--Andy

wallace@mc.com

P.S. You asked if I was a FISTS member -- no, I'm not. What is that?

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Date: Wed, 1 May 1996 14:48:39 -0700  
From: Jeff Duntemann <jeffd@coriolis.com>  
To: glowbugs@theporch.com  
Subject: Double bug?  
Message-ID: <199605012148.0AA28651@bob.indirect.com>

I am imagining this, or was there once a type of bug with \*2\* wobblers, a long one for dahs and a short one for dits? The long one was \*below\* the short one, so that when the long lever oscillated it didn't interfere with the short one. Maybe it was a joke in \*73\*, but even if it was I can't honestly think it would be truly impossible to do. The trickiness would have to be in the linkage that nudged the long wobble on a left swipe and the short one on a right swipe.

I'm only a young snipe of 44; maybe this was one of those grandad things, like rotary spark gaps...

Bugs take a steady, trained hand. My dad was incredible on his Vibroplex Presentation, but I could never master it.

--73--

--JD--

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End of GLOWBUGS Digest 175

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